



## News Notes

**Prayer luncheon** – The National Prayer luncheon is today at 11 a.m. in the chapel center. The uniform of the day is the attire for the event. To make reservations, call 449-1754 ext. 235 by Jan. 25.

**Blood drive** – A blood drive will take place at the community center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday. To make an appointment, contact Staff Sgt. Camill Thomas at 449-3142 or email camill.thomas@hickam.af.mil.

**Public Health clinics moved** – The 15th Medical Group Public Health has moved its deployment, force health management and prevention medicine offices to the second floor, room A250 in the clinic. The new telephone numbers for deployments are 448-6338 and 448-6334. The new numbers for the force health management and prevention medicine sections are 448-6339 and 448-6761.

**Flight closure** – The Force Development Flight will be closed Feb. 8 for the C-17 arrival events. There will be no CLEP/DANTES or PME testing that day.

**Scholarships** – The Hickam Officer's Spouses Club is offering several scholarships varying in size up to \$5,000 to help defray the cost of college tuition for high school seniors of military members.

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## In this week's Kukini



**Skate Park open for all Hickam youth to enjoy**  
B1



*Spirit of Hawaii Ke Aloha*  
**C-17 COUNTDOWN**  
**11 days**

Classifieds	B6-B7
Crossword	B4
Movies	B3
Perspective	A2
Services	A6
Sports	B5

# Tax center opens Monday

By Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman  
Kukini Editor

The Hickam Tax Center opens for business Monday.

The center is open 8 to 9 a.m. for walk-ins who only file a 1040EZ form. All others can make an appointment by calling 448-0712.

The center can do taxes for all active-duty, Reserve, Guard members and retirees along with their families. A valid military ID card is required.

"We are not authorized to prepare business tax returns," said Capt. Jennifer Osborne, 15th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate office. "There is however, one small exception. We can prepare returns for a home-based childcare business for those childcare businesses located on Hickam. Also, we are unable to assist those folks with seriously complex returns involving income from multiple rental properties."

For state returns, the tax center is able to do state returns only if they file the individual's federal returns as well.

All of the 25 volunteers for the tax center are trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service.

"Before the volunteers are allowed to work in the tax center, they must pass a proficiency exam administered by the IRS," said Captain Osborne.

There will be seven volunteers working at the center every day.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 449-0712.

## Command Chief visits



Photo by Oscar Hernandez

Former Command Chief of the Air Force James McCoy speaks during the Chief's Recognition Ceremony Jan. 20 at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club.

## Which Tax Form is Right for You?

For people who decide to file their federal income tax return on paper, it is best to choose the simplest federal tax form for their needs. Using the simplest allowable form reduces the chance of an error that may cost money or delay the processing of the return. The three forms to choose from when filing individual federal income tax returns are Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, and Form 1040.

The following guide can assist filers in deciding which form is right for them.

**1040EZ** – Taxpayers may qualify to use Form 1040EZ, the simplest form, if:

- Their taxable income is below \$100,000
  - Their filing status is Single or Married Filing Jointly
  - They are under age 65
  - They are not claiming any dependents
  - Their interest income is \$1,500 or less
- 1040A** – Filers may be able to use Form 1040A if:
- Their taxable income is below \$100,000
  - They have capital gain distributions
  - They claim certain tax credits
  - They claim deductions

for IRA contributions, student loan interest, educator expenses or higher education tuition and fees

**1040** – If filers cannot use either a 1040EZ or 1040A, they probably need to use Form 1040. Filers must file form 1040 if:

- Their taxable income is \$100,000 or more
- They claim itemized deductions
- They are reporting self-employment income
- They are reporting income from sale of property

Choosing the correct tax form could mean money in the filer's pocket. Check tax instructions carefully. Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax, is a helpful guide to preparing federal tax forms. It is available on the IRS Web site at IRS.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Filers may also pick up a Publication 17 at the Hickam Tax Center located in Hangar 2, room 110 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

(Information courtesy of the Internal Revenue Service TAX TIP 2006-04 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).)

# Playground to open soon

By Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman  
Kukini Editor

Many Hickam youth have something to look forward to in the coming weeks.

A new playground has been built near Hickam Elementary on Porter Avenue for all Hickam youth to enjoy.

The equipment, which was supplied by the Hickam's Officer's Spouses Club, was installed this month and the playground is planned to open in mid-February.

The purpose of the new playground was to offer a place for youth to play.

The playground was built "to provide a new playground near the school area that would promote outdoor recreation and fitness for Hickam's youth," said 2nd Lt. Steven Vick, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron.

The OSC donated the \$18,000 worth of equipment and through 15th CES work orders and many volunteer hours, the project is about done.

"The equipment definitely stands out from other playgrounds on Hickam as much for its strange architecture as its bright colors," said Lieutenant Vick. "The equipment is designed to give the children a little workout while playing on it. Most of the equipment requires them to pull their own weight or lift themselves up."



Courtesy Photo

Volunteers help install playground equipment on the new playground on Porter Avenue. This project showcases the great volunteerism on Hickam, including active duty members, contractors, and family members.

## Chief McKinley speaks to AFN

By Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman  
Kukini Editor

In a recent interview with Hickam's Air Force News, Chief Master Sgt. Rod McKinley, Pacific Air Forces command chief, answered four key questions.

**Q. Today's expeditionary Air Force sends Airmen TDY frequently. Why is it important to adhere to the Air Force's Core Values on these trips?**

A. It's always important to remember our core values because our core values define who we are. So, if we're going TDY we're not just representing our Air Force or (Major Command) but we're representing every American and it's important that we represent our country well. So if we go places and we forget our core values it's a direct reflection on the public. It's important that we go out there and put our best foot forward to represent our country well. And we do that. Some times we slip up but for the most part we have 99 percent of our Airmen doing great things all the time. So, our core values are always important, integrity, service and excellence in everything we do. But it's also making sure that we put the mission first. To make sure we do whatever job the Air Force gives us and do the best we

See CHIEF, A3





# Symbolism important to 15th Wing

By Col. Bill "Goose" Changose  
15th Airlift Wing commander

Symbolism is important. Symbols have meaning and they have value. Professional sports teams, corporations, and private companies spend millions of dollars each year protecting their logos and their trademarks for a reason. How their symbols are used and where these symbols are displayed communicates the values and standards of the organization.

This is also true of the U.S. military. Our profession is full of symbols; from the patches on our uniforms to the way we salute, to how we fold the flag. Remember, we are the newest in a long line of proud men and women who have served with valor and honor and many of our symbols recognize this history. It is a history we should learn and it is a history we should respect in

our treatment of the symbols of our service.

How you maintain your uniform, your hair, how you address people on and off duty, everything you do speaks to the quality and character of our military organization. You are the most visible symbol of the US Air Force.

Team Hickam is about to mark a truly significant change in the military capability of the forces in the Pacific. On Feb 8th our first of 8 C-17s arrives at Hickam. Thousands of people will watch this important milestone for the Air Force, and for many of them the most memorable part of the day will be their interaction with you, the symbol of the U.S. Air Force. Be proud of who you are and what you represent, be proud of what the C-17 brings to the Pacific, like me, be proud to me a member of Team Hickam.



Photo by Oscar Hernandez

Col. Bill "Goose" Changose, 15th Airlift Wing commander, presents Senior Master Sgt. Marc Hill, 15th Communications Squadron, with the Bronze Star at the beginning of commander's call Monday.

## Commemorative Holidays... not just another day off

Maj. Andrew Gober  
Det. 601 Air Force  
Office of Special Investigation

Having a day off in Hawaii definitely has its benefits. There's so much to see and do, it's easy to forget what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr was all about, or what happened more than 50 years ago in Pearl Harbor or what happened almost five years ago in New York and Washington DC.

I spent some time on my day off, Jan. 16, looking at the USS Arizona Memorial from Ford Island. I was reminded of the commemorative day we recently spent on Dec 7th, when we dedicated time to remember the sacrifice and loss that occurred on that day in 1941, and the numerous sacrifices that followed throughout WWII. Then, I spent a few moments remembering the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We all know of his great quest to gain Civil Rights for all Americans. Dr. King's mission did not stop after his death. Similar to those who lost their lives in Pearl Harbor, there were many more Americans willing to sacrifice to carry on Dr. King's fight for justice and equality. His movement started as an African American initiative, but quickly involved millions of Americans from all walks of life who put aside their personal differences and stood up for what was right. Finally, my thoughts wandered to a conversation I shared with a senior leader in our Air Force back in 2004. The topic was whether or not to have a base-sponsored memorial ceremony for the victims of Sep 11th. The leader quickly denounced the idea by saying "People just need to get over it." I was dumbfounded with the insensitivity of the remark. It made me really reflect on the importance of commemorations and memorials.

Commemorative events and holidays are more than time to reflect on loss and they are certainly more than just a day off. They are there to help us focus on the challenges that lie

ahead and to help us put the continual sacrifices into perspective. In short, they help us answer the question "why are we doing this."

Nearly everything the US military has focused on today is based on the tragedy of Sep 11th. We have been engaged in the global war on terrorism for longer than we fought WWII. Our families continue to endure long separations, anxiety and in some cases, tragic loss. Our ops tempo continues to increase and it has become easier for us to lose our resolve, lose our sense of spirit and lose our direction. We begin to allow ourselves to believe the sacrifice is not worth the cost. In those difficult moments when we miss our loved ones or face personal sacrifice, I think it is important to spend a few moments on history...remember the countless people who lives were saved during WWII; the countless lives that were influenced by the late Dr. King and the countless lives we continue to make better in places like Afghanistan and Iraq.

Think about the thousands of families who will never again get to share a day off with their loved ones because they were killed in the World Trade Center or Pentagon...or the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who lost their lives since then. Suddenly, our sacrifices seem very small in comparison. Despite the long hours or the long separation from family, at least I still have my loved ones and they still have me. But the most important point to all of this is the literally countless families throughout the world who have a brighter future because of the continual sacrifices of the brave men and women of the US Armed Forces. That's why we're here and that's how we are protecting America - by spreading hope. Just like Dr. King did and just like we did after WWII. So the next time we have a memorial or a commemorative holiday, think beyond the "day off" and spend some time recalling what it's really all about.

## New column answers legal concerns

Beginning February 2006, the Hickam Legal Office will be submitting a monthly article to the Kukini entitled Dear JAG. Our intention is to use the Dear JAG articles to provide a general understanding of important legal issues that frequently arise in our base community. Those wishing to pose questions for consideration can submit their questions to the box located in the lobby of the Hickam AFB Legal Office or email them to v315aw.ja@hickam.af.mil. The articles

cannot address the issues of a specific case, so please submit only questions of a general nature. Submitting a question neither creates an attorney-client relationship nor guarantees a response. Information contained in the Dear JAG articles should not be relied upon as a substitute for seeking legal advice for your particular situation. General Legal Assistance is available for eligible beneficiaries on Mondays from 0830 to 1030 hours on a walk-in basis.

## Action Line

The purpose of the Action Line is in its name. It's your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. It also allows you to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their duties - and we all know there are plenty of those folks here.

All members of Team Hickam are welcome to use the Action Line; however, I urge you to give the normal chain of command the first chance at resolving problems or issues. It's only fair to give our commanders and managers the first opportunity to work issues under their responsibility. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

### Closing Hours of 10th Puka

**Comment:** I am a retired military member who served 26 years in the United States Air Force. I have been retired for 14 years and turned 63 in September. I disagree with your decision to stop serving alcohol at the 10th Puka at 8 pm. You are punishing everyone for a wrong that a few individuals have done. It's equivalent to what teachers did when I was going to school and that is to punish the whole class for what one or two bad apples did. Those who are wrong should be punished not everyone else who patronizes the facility. The individual should not have taken matters into his own hand but contacted the manager on duty who could have called Security Police. Due to your decision your young military members are going downtown and to Waikiki. I was at the Puka

and saw 5 young military members leave the Puka at 7:15 pm and saying they were going downtown. This increases their chances of a DUI. In addition, they are spending their money off base and not at a base facility. From what I understand the clubs are losing money with the exception of the 10th Puka. So why would you cut off your income generating facility? There are a few who would like to enjoy a drink after a round of golf and now you have made it impossible. From speaking to other individuals who patronize the 10th Puka I am not the only one who thinks this is not fair to the people who know how to handle their alcohol and act decently. I also understand there was an incident at the NCO club a few weeks ago but they were not told to stop serving alcohol after 8 pm? Why the inequity? Thank you for your time and I hope you will reconsider your position on this matter.

**Response:** I appreciate your concerns. However, due to some unfortunate alcohol related incidents over the last few months involving customers in and around the 10th Puka Lounge, an adjustment of operating hours was made. In addition to the temporary change in closing time, I've decided to stop serving alcohol at 2100 hours. These hours will stay in effect until I'm convinced customers have a safe environment in which to enjoy themselves. Management is currently developing new operating procedures in order to provide a safe environment for the Hickam community. Once I feel we have achieved a level of safety for all out patrons, we will again address the operating hours and alcohol serving hours. Unfortunately these incidents as well as the resulting consequences impact all our customers. Again, thank you for your concern. Should you have additional questions or concerns please call Mr. Trigilio at 449-5578.

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Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's  
issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 -  
500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

### Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center  
449-0300  
Life Skills Support Center  
449-0175  
Law Enforcement Desk  
449-6373  
Base Chaplain  
449-1754  
Military Family Abuse Shelter  
533-7125  
SARC Hotline  
449-7272



## CHIEF, From A1

possibly can.

**Q. Does this mean we shouldn't enjoy ourselves on our trips away from home?**

A. Adhering to core values and trying to do the best job you can does not mean you can't have fun. I still enjoy myself. I like to kid around, I like to have fun, but I take the mission very seriously. I take this right here, U.S. Air Force very seriously. But that does not mean it has to be boring or monotonous, it can be fun. So, when you go TDY I want people to have fun. I want them to enjoy their TDYs. I want them to enjoy their Wingman. But, I want them to take care of each other to make sure we're not out there doing things are going to come back and haunt us later.

**Q. What is the Wingman Concept and why is it important?**

A. The Wingman Concept is just Airmen taking care of Airmen. I think many times when we have things that happen that hits the negative press, you know someone does something wrong, there's probably someone there that could've prevented it. So if you see your Wingman, a fellow Airmen, someone you work with or someone you know belongs in the military, and they're about to do something wrong, you need to go up and tap them on the shoulder and be a good Wingman's Wingman and get them back home safely. What we do in the public eye is very important. We have relationships here in the Pacific that are very important that we need to make sure we do all the right things. Commanders do a lot of public relations work with these other countries and then we can come in in a few moments because of something you do negatively will reflect on us all and impact what that wing commander has worked so long on establishing. So, the Wingman Concept helps prevent those things from happening. So, if you see someone doing something wrong or you see maybe someone has had a little too much to drink you're going to step in and you're going to make sure you get them home

safely and you're going take care of them. That keeps them from trouble and that keeps the public eye on the Air Force looking at us as the best Air Force in the world which is exactly what we are.

**Q. The Air Force has a new mission statement: To deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests - to fly and fight in Air, Space and Cyberspace. What should this mean to today's Airmen?**

A. For me growing up as a crew chief on fighter aircraft, we always had the mission statement "fly, fight and win." That's really no different but when you're talking about sovereign options, which a lot of people have a little confusion about, it's real clear. We want to provide all the options available to our commanders and the President of the United States that our options are that we can go out and do any humanitarian action on the one hand and help people out all over the world basically on short notice. So we can do those humanitarian actions but on the other hand we are still that very strong Air Force that has the capabilities and will to go out and destroy whatever targets we need to do to complete our mission. We also talk about cyberspace which is another thing that is added to our mission statement.

We have a lot of Airmen working on cyberspace to make sure our networking and email and everything else is secure because we have a lot of people out there trying to get into our cyberspace and disrupt what we're doing. So cyberspace is a very important part of our mission statement. It's not just about air, it's also about space and it's also about cyberspace. Ninety-nine percent of our Airmen are doing outstanding things all the time. With the Wingman Concept, taking care of those other Airmen and keep those other Airmen out of trouble, we're going to be more successful in the future. Thanks to everybody and their families for the great job they're doing for their country.

## Deployed



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jasmine Reify

**Southwest Asia – Senior Airman Alfred Mines, and Airman 1st Class Christopher Ruiz, assigned to the 386th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, go through the vehicle checklists and make sure all parts are working properly. Every week the department checks everything from ladders to generators to guarantee combat readiness. Airman Mines,**

**whose hometown is Lima, Ohio, is deployed from the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department at Yokota AB, Japan and Airman Ruiz, originally from El Paso, Texas, is deployed from the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department at Hickam. They are deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.**

# Combat Dining In coming soon

The Hawaii Top 3 will host the Team Hickam Enlisted Combat Dining In Feb. 10 at Area 61.

The guest speaker for the event, themed "Peacekeepers of the Pacific", is 15th Airlift Wing Commander, Col. Bill "Goose" Changose. The cost for the event is E1-E4 \$5 (with refund upon arrival), E5-E6 \$10, and E7-E9 \$15. Ticket price includes food and drink and a small memento to commemorate your attendance.

Parking will be available along the perimeter of the event, similar to the setup for the Hickam Carnival. Social hour is 6 to 7 p.m., and the Dining In

will run until approximately 9:30 p.m.

Rumor has it that there will be an obstacle course to contend with for members of the mess sent to the grog. Also, combat-themed games such as target practice and grenade toss are rumored to be on site. Limited ammunition can be purchased at the event in case attendees run out. All ammunition must be approved prior to entering the mess area. All weapons must contain water only.

Authorized uniforms for the Dining In are BDUs and flight suits. Uniforms must meet standards per AFI 36-2903, but attendees are advised not to wear

their best set. Face paint and other items such as web gear, armor, etc are approved. However, remember the uniform must not be altered to the point it is not serviceable or doesn't maintain standards.

Some important tips: The area will be muddy so bring a change of clothes/shoes for after the event. It would also be wise to cover any car interior to prevent possible staining.

Seating is limited to 400 people, so get tickets now. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Farrell Thomas at 449-8872 or Senior Master Sgt. Tammy Rush at 449-2946 ext 306.

## Crime Scene

### Shoplifting

Three Air Force family member were detained by Army and Air Force Exchange Service store detectives for shoplifting. Total cost of stolen merchandise: \$214.95.

### Theft of private property

An active-duty Air Force member notified security forces

and reported her vehicle was damaged. Estimated cost of repair: unknown.

### Theft of private property

An active-duty Navy member reported damage to her vehicle to security forces. Estimated cost of repair: \$58.68.

### Damage to property

An Air Force civilian employee notified security forces and reported that the key drop off box located outside of her office was broken. Further investigation revealed that an unknown amount of rental car keys were found missing.

# Air Force Thunderbirds need volunteers

By Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen  
Thunderbirds Public Affairs

The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron is looking for professionals to join an elite team known world-wide for precision flying and community involvement.

Volunteers are needed in eight career fields.

"The Thunderbirds have more than 34 career fields represented in the squadron," said Chief Master Sgt. Ted Field, chief enlisted manager of the Thunderbirds. "We have a job for just about everyone out there."

The Air Force Specialty Codes needed are 2A3X2 Avionics, 2A3X3B Crew Chief, 2A6X3 Egress, 2A6X4 Fuels, 2A6X6 Electro/Environmental, 2A7X3 Structures, 3N0X1 Public Affairs, 3V0X1 Graphic Artist and 8F000 First Sergeant.

For information on the application process, visit [www.airforce.com/thunderbirds](http://www.airforce.com/thunderbirds).

"Even if (a) career field is not listed, we are accepting applications," Chief Field said. "Anyone can submit an application for a job in one of the (34) career fields we have. We'll keep the application on file for six months, and if a job comes open we will look at the applications we have and we'll try to fill them with those."

One of the common misconceptions about the Thunderbirds is the team is gone

all the time.

"We do travel across the United States and in some cases across the world," Chief Field said. "But we're not gone all the time. We have a good amount of time at home, but we do travel."

During the season, a typical week begins on Thursday when the team travels to its show site. Pilots fly their aircraft and support personnel typically travel in a C-17. As soon as the jets touch down, technicians recover their aircraft and perform post-flight tasks. Meanwhile, public affairs prepares for enlistment and re-enlistment ceremonies, media interviews and orientation flights.

Communications specialists videotape the arrival and landing. The advance pilot, having arrived the day before, briefs the team on subjects including transportation and the weather.

Friday is usually a practice day, giving the Thunderbird pilots an opportunity to become familiar with the terrain and local landmarks. Crew chiefs and their assistants attend to pre-flight tasks.

After the practice flight, the team meets with members of the community whose special needs might prevent them from attending a crowded show. On Saturday and Sunday, the team flies its full show and meets with the crowd to sign autographs for 20 minutes.

On Monday, the team heads back to Nellis AFB, Nev., then goes back to work



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Pyle

**Staff Sgt. Scott Grabham, crew chief for the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, fills out forms after a successful day of flying in New York. The Thunderbirds are currently looking for volunteers for several open positions on the team.**

Tuesday.

"It seems really busy, and to some extent it is, but the people you get to meet with on the road make it all worthwhile,"

Chief Field said.

"The bottom line is an assignment to the Thunderbirds is the chance of a lifetime," the chief said.



# United States gives military hospital to Indonesia

By Army Cpl. Jeremy Vought

**JAKARTA, INDONESIA** – In a large step toward normalizing military relationships with the country of Indonesia, as well as, provide much needed humanitarian assistance, US Ambassador to Indonesia Lynn Pascoe handed over 11-million dollars worth of medical equipment to Minister of Defense Juwono Sudarsono in a ceremony here January 20th.

“We’re pleased with being able to do this,” said Lynn Pascoe, US Ambassador to Indonesia. “We think that it gets to the kind of humanitarian work that both of our militaries have shown themselves so capable of doing and that we did so successfully I think as shoulder to shoulder a year ago and that we want to continue doing in the future.”

All the medical equipment, enough to build a fully functional, mobile hospital, was excess gear in the US military’s inventory.

“We are partnering with Indonesia,” said Army Brig. Gen. Kenneth Dowd, Director of Logistics at the US Pacific Command. “They have this requirement for this hospital gear and instead of turning it into the US as excess material, this was a great opportunity to move it over here to Indonesia and show our partnership as we redevelop our relationships.”

During the 2004 Tsunami that ravished the county’s coastal providences, US and Indonesian military medical

planners developed ways to provide sustaining long-term medical care while increasing the disaster relief capabilities of the Indonesian military.

“One of the things that came out of that cooperation was a understanding that there was that disaster, there was one in Nias and there were going to be other problems at various times and one of the thing we needed to do was to work together on that kind of capacity,” Ambassador Pascoe said. “The minister and I have had many discussions about the direction he wants things to go and he has talked about building capacity on disaster relief and being able to take care of things.

So in February 2005, during the relief operations, members of the Pacific Command in Hawaii identified excess medical equipment at a Navy Fleet Hospital on Okinawa, Japan.

Coordination began among Office of Defense Cooperation in Jakarta, TNI (Indonesian military), USPACOM staff, and the Department of the Navy to transfer the gear to the Humanitarian Assistance Program-Excess Property.

Under the HAP-EP, property deemed excess could be donated to other countries vice being put into military storage for contingency operations.

The equipment, shipped in 106 military containers, consists of operating rooms, laboratories, intensive care beds, x-ray units, a dental surgery unit, refrigerated blood banks, microscopes, suction pumps, pulse meters, and more.

In the wake of the Tsunami, the US military came to provide immediate emergency relief to the battered region with the help of the USNS Mercy; a huge floating hospital. This donation of medical equipment will continue to what the Mercy started a year ago, explained Dowd.

This equipment will be used by the Indonesians to meet their needs, explained Dowd.

“They have explained that they are going to break it out into 57 different places throughout Indonesia for medical support,” he said.

“This is a very significant contribution,” said Indonesia Minister of Defense Juwono Sudarsono. “Because part of the tradition of the Indonesian Defense Force of course if the people’s army and the people’s army can only be won over if their given assistance. These kinds of assistance are very much needed by those afflicted by disasters, health care primarily.”

In Indonesia, the military provides many of the basic and emergency medical needs, but after the Tsunami much of that infrastructure was destroyed.

“An important aspect of our defense program is to empower our military battalions with capabilities in medical assistance, both for the military itself as well as for the people that the military has been instrumental in helping in disaster prone areas, both natural disasters as well as manmade disasters,” Minister Juwono said.

The United States and



U.S. Navy photo

**JAKARTA, Indonesia – U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Lynn Pascoe (middle) presents the Indonesian Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono (left) with a substantial delivery of military hospital equipment valued at \$11 million. The U.S. Pacific Command staff, in close coordination with the TNI, identified the medical equipment for turnover, as a continuum to the acute medical care provided by the USNS Mercy in early 2005.**

Indonesia are the 3rd and 4th largest countries in the world and Ambassador Pascoe explained that is exactly why the two countries should be strengthening ties both diplomatically and militarily.

In November, the U.S. State Department moved to normalize military to military relations with Indonesia, after six years of

restricted engagement.

“Our two presidents said last May in Washington that they wanted a normal military relationship between out two countries. We have been working steadily towards that goal and since that time major steps were taken. We see this as very much part of that kind of close working relationship that we would like to do; a

very normal relationship.

This small example of the growing partnership between Indonesia and the US shows how excess military gear scheduled to be put into storage will instead be able to touch the lives of many in the region as well as strengthen the binding ties between the militaries of Indonesia and the United States.



Editor’s Note: To read the complete stories and find more Air Force News, go to [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil).

## F-22A Raptor flies first operational missions

**LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN)** – The F-22A Raptor showed another of its capabilities when it flew its first two operational sorties over the United States in support of Operation Noble Eagle Jan. 21 and 22.

The Raptor mission came one week after the 27th Fighter Squadron -- the first unit to fly the jet -- converted to the Air Force’s fifth-genera-

tion stealth fighter. The jet just reached its initial operational capability in December.

"Since becoming IOC, we have the ability to deploy," squadron commander Lt. Col. James Hecker said. "This is our first operational mission, the first mission where we've carried live ordnance."

Operation Noble Eagle provides air defense over the United States and Canada. Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the nation, North American Aerospace Defense Command fighters have responded to more than 2,000 air events over the two countries. Aircraft have flown more than 40,000 sorties supporting Noble Eagle .

The colonel said there is plenty of excitement at the unit, though many of its pilots have

flown Noble Eagle missions.

"Most of our pilots have done this before, but not with the Raptor," he said. "It's a big step for us and a big step for the Raptor program."

Capt. Geoff Lohmiller flew one of the sorties. He said while it felt good to finally get a real mission under the F-22A's belt, the pilots looked at it like any other mission.

"It's not much different," he said. "We train for this every day. The great thing about this jet is that it has the capability to do so many different things."

Colonel Hecker said the F-22A provides advantages to Operation Noble Eagle that "legacy" fighters can't provide.

"Operation Noble Eagle is one of many

missions the Raptor is capable of," he said. "We bring some things to the mission that others can't."

With its advanced sensor package, the F-22A has the capability to detect and track targets better than other fighters, the colonel said.

"We get a God's-eye view of the airspace and everything in it," Colonel Hecker said.

"And its supercruise allows us to intercept targets faster and further out."

Supercruise is the F-22A's ability to remain at supersonic speeds without using its afterburner. This allows faster sustained speeds with lower fuel consumption. *(Story by Staff Sgt. Thomas Doscher, 1st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*



NEWS NOTES,  
From A1

Applications can be picked up at the base library, thrift shop, education office, Airmen and Family Readiness Flight and Radford High School.

Applications can also be downloaded from [hoscscholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:hoscscholarship@yahoo.com). Completed applications must be submitted by March 1. For more information, contact Marie McCormick at 206-7005.

**Motorcycle safety** – The Navy Region Hawaii Motorcycle Safety Program is hosting a motorcycle safety day Feb. 11 at the Navy Exchange. The day includes motorcycle dealer displays of new bikes, riding gear, helmets and accessories, club representatives to talk about their riding clubs along with some field events to test slow ride and control skills. The event is open to all riders from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. but participants must wear proper protective gear to enter the field events. Displays will be outside the Navy Exchange and the field events will be held in a portion of the parking lot. For more information or to request booth space, contact Rodd Johnson at 474-3447 ext. 246.

**MCCW Bible study** – The Military Council of Catholic Women has weekly Bible study at the AMR Chapel. They meet on Thursdays for Mass at 9 a.m. followed by fellowship and Bible study from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free childcare is provided for children registered with child youth services. For more information, call the AMR chapel at 839-4319.



**Open Water Kayaking to Chinaman’s Hat**

Enjoy open water kayaking is Sunday from 0900 to 1500. The cost of \$40 per person includes rental equipment, two guides and transportation. Bring water, lunch and sunscreen. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.



**48th Annual Hickam Carnival**

It’s time to get ready for the 48th Annual Hickam Carnival! Carnival dates: Friday, 17 February 1700 to 2330; Saturday, 18 February 1130 to 2200; Sunday, 19 February, 1200 to 2200. Carnival will be held in Earhart Village at Area 61. Pre-event tickets on sale 6 to 16 February at Services facilities and the BX & Commissary. Proceeds help

support the Community Center and Youth Programs. Enjoy live entertainment and thrilling rides! Prize drawings include a \$1,000 travel voucher good for anywhere & anytime, a portable DVD player & an Ocean Adventure package. Call the Community Center at 449-2361.

**Officers’ Club Dinner Theater - “Cats”**

Reserve your space now for dinner and a night at the theater with the Officers’ Club on Saturday, 25 February. The cost of \$50 per person includes a three-course dinner, transportation to and from the production.

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